

OLD TIMES.

There's a beautiful song on the shamborous air,
That drifts through the valley of dreams;
It comes from a clime where the roses were
A thousand hours and bright, bright had!

That waved in the morning beam.
Soft eyes of azure and eyes of brown,
And snow-white foreheads are there;
A glistening cross, a glittering crown,
A thorny bed and a couch of down.

Lost hymn and leaflets of prayer.

A breath of spring in the bazy woods,
Sweet walls from the quivering pines—
Blue violet eyes beneath green hoods,
A bubble of brooklets, a scion of buds,
Bird warblers and chambering vines.

A rosy wreath and a dimpled hand,
A ring and a slighted vow—
Three golden links of a broken band,
A tiny track on the snow-white sand,
A tear and a sinless brow.

There's a tincture of grief in the beautiful song.

That soaks on the shamborous air,
And loneliness felt in the festive throng,
Sinks down on the soul as it trembles along
From a clime where the roses were.

We heard it first at the dawn of day,
And it mingled with matin chimes;
But years have distanced the beautiful lay,
And its melody flew from the far away,
And we call it now Old Times.

HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

FIRST DAY.

The Holston Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, convened at 8 o'clock, A. M., on Wednesday morning, Sept. 28th.

The session was opened by reading the Scripture by Rev. Bishop Scott, Revs. R. W. Petty and F. M. Fanning leading the Conference in prayer.

The Bishop addressed the Conference in a few earnest, practical remarks, delicately referring to the relations of the M. E. Church in the South, recommending Christian charity and charity to all.

After calling of the Conference roll, Rev. J. J. Manker was elected Secretary, and J. S. Petty, Assistant.

A number of papers representing various Church interests were presented by the Presidents and referred to their appropriate committees.

Representations of the work in the several districts were made by the Presiding Elders, showing a good state of prosperity, and large numerical increase in the Conference during the past year.

On motion, Rev. J. F. Spence was elected Conference reporter for the day press.

Rev. Mr. Boggs and Dr. W. A. Allen, Physician to the Poor, were elected by the Conference to be President.

Rev. Dr. Kynett, of Philadelphia, Secretary of the Church Extension Society, was introduced. Dr. Kynett is one of nature's noblemen both physically and mentally. He stands over six feet high—well proportioned, weighing over 200 pounds avoirdupois. He is not only well proportioned, but handsome to boot upon. His beard is closely shaven—"he is a clean face"—his countenance always agreeable with a placid benignity—calm in temperance; we judge he possesses great power of self control. His voice in ordinary conversation is a little below the masculine key. But as he warms up in discourse it becomes full and nervous until it reaches the grandest swell of human utterance. He is an interesting, instructive and powerful speaker, and would, in our judgment, make a magnificent orator of any kind, either as a General or a Bishop.

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SECOND DAY.

The Conference assembled on yesterday at the usual hour. Rev. Dr. Mitchell conducted the religious exercises. The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

Rev. J. L. Lloyd, of the Baptist Church was introduced to the Conference.

The class of the 4th year course of study were represented by the Committee of Examination, and they were elected to Elders' orders.

A spirited discussion arose upon a resolution offered by Rev. R. W. Petty in reference to the distribution of missionary funds of the Conference. A number of bold thrusts were said to have been made at the Presiding Elders of the Conference, all of which they received with great meekness, doubtless remembering Sampson's story—and with a sufficient amount of gay spirit graciously helped the resolution to pass.

The morning session was brief, closing before 11 o'clock.

CHURCH EXTENSION ANNIVERSARY.

At the appointed hour, a congregation, respectable in numbers, considering the inclement evening, assembled at the church to witness the anniversary exercises of the Church Extension Society. The opening services were conducted by Rev. D. B. Lawton.

Rev. J. R. Eads was then introduced and made a short speech, full of practical thoughts, well delivered. He dwelt upon the necessity of building good churches and a general concentration of efforts, favoring out large congregations with comfortable houses of worship rather than a number of small congregations scattered over the country worshipping in cheerless, uncomfortable houses. The age demands a concentration of effort in every department of society.

By expiration of time Conference adjourned.

MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY.

At 6 o'clock last evening the large audience room of the church was well filled. Rev. J. J. Manker conducted the devotional exercises.

Rev. J. B. Little read the Treasurer's report,

which, owing to close money market was certainly very creditable. Total amount \$1,910.88.

The first speaker of the evening was the Rev. Dr. Fuller, of Atlanta, Georgia. The Doctor is man of fine address—has the power of holding his audience closely to the subject in hand.

Rev. Dr. Kynett, of Philadelphia, was the second speaker of the evening. The Doctor is perfects of eloquence on the platform, and well does he understand how to interest and move the hearts of his audience. We shall not attempt to give you an outline of his address. The entire audience were held for over 30 minutes thoroughly delighted. Oh did the hearten, amen, respond to the earnest words of the speaker.

SABBATH IN THE M. E. CHURCH.

Rev. W. H. Rogers opened the Sabbath School exercises with prayer. Revs. J. H. Nichols and J. S. Petty delivered short addresses, which were well received by both school and visitors.

CONFERENCE LOVE FEAST.

Rev. W. C. Graves and F. M. Fanning led in the opening exercises.

To the ministers, such reunions are certainly most delightful; after twelve long weary months of trial and trial, thus to meet and talk together of the goodness of God, the triumphs of faith and the success of their labors.

One of the peculiar features of Methodism, brought out in the examination of which, was that many of the preachers are in fact mere Herculean laborers and receiving but puny salaries—some of them traveling on horseback, or

not better if that men might be eloquent, or teachers, or Doctors of Divinity, or Bachelors; but that His people might be witnesses; and to be a true witness, a man must have personal knowledge of this power.

The Bishop is a pleasant speaker. Although not a Master of age, and somewhat impeded by long and constant labor, he is strong and no times powerful. He speaks slow and distinctly. His manner is a simple earnestness in everything he says, causing his entire audience to feel that his own soul was imbued with the fire of life mission. At the close of the sermon the Bishop ordained a large class to the office of Deacons in the Church. The large audience room was densely packed with attentive hearers. Many went away unable to be comfortably seated.

At 3 P. M. Rev. Dr. E. Q. Fuller, of Atlanta, preached an able discourse from the Gospel of St. Mark, 12: 28-30.

Rev. E. Q. Fuller, D. D., editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, was introduced, and addressed the Conference upon the interests of the Church paper, and also the general interests of the Methodist Church in the South.

The speaker said: I pray God every day that the morning may soon come, when our brethren of the Church South will shake hands with us; and if I ever get to feel I cannot give them my hand, I want to be led to the anxious seat. I hope to live to see the time when the differences between us will be swept away and we shall be one.

EDUCATIONAL ANNIVERSARY.

The meeting was opened by Rev. F. S. Wolfe, of Middle Tennessee, by reading a hymn and prayer.

The President of the Association made a few remarks.

The first speaker was James A. Ruble, who addressed the audience on the advantages of an educated Ministry.

The second speaker was Rev. F. M. Fanning. Fanning is a man of peculiar power before an audience. He possesses a full, strong voice, which he uses to good effect. Some of the speaker's illustrations were well received on account of their novelty. The speaker regretted that his own intellect had been so sadly neglected. He had often felt keenly on this subject. A religion in action should be the great work of life.

The Rev. Dr. Cobleigh, President of the East Tennessee Wesleyan University, made the principal address of the evening. There may be two very important reasons why the Lord calls poor young men to the Ministry. The speaker illustrated from the rich young man in the Scriptures. Another reason, the great majority of the world are poor, and, to succeed, a man must have the sympathy of those he labors with. The speaker referred to our destination in the department of education, and was sorry that our friends in the North could not be made to understand the situation of our people in this country. Other Churches are successful in providing means to educate the poor young men of the Church, and they are gathering them from other Churches from ours. Shall we permit it—and ill and be rebuked—shall we go to work to characterize them? The speaker, at this point made an urgent appeal to the members of the Conference. This is a good field and a most successful culture.

Rev. Dr. F. M. Fanning was present the Society, with a deputation of 16 members.

A collection was taken amounting to \$1,000.

Concerts were held at 8 o'clock.

At 10 o'clock this evening the anniversary of the Missionary Society will be held. Address will be delivered by a number of gentlemen.

No collection will be taken.

FOURTH DAY.

Conference adjourned at the usual hour, Rev. R. H. Guthrie conducting the morning services.

The journal was read and approved. Quite a number of recommendations for orders from local members of the church were presented and acted upon.

Prof. Butler, President of the Knoxville Female Institute, was introduced to the Conference, and made a few very happy remarks which were well received by the members of the Conference.

The Committee on Church Extension presented their report, and Rev. Dr. Kynett, Secretary of the Parent Board, addressed the Conference.

The Doctor was very explicit in his remarks, urging the Conference to earnest work in the great interest of our Church.

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